

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

In 3442

HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY

U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

Cup
(release on receipt)

SUBJECT: Our Neighbor's Garden...Information from the Extension Service of the United States Department of Agriculture

If we were to take a trip to Peru now, one thing we'd likely notice is that instead of getting ready to plant their garden, the Peruvians are just cleaning theirs up for the winter. Oh yes. The Peruvians have a garden program too. Not exactly like ours. But then we wouldn't expect it to be. After all, conditions in our two countries are different. A garden program that fills our needs wouldn't suit the Peruvians any more than their program would suit ours.

Their program is sponsored by the InterAmerican Cooperative Food Production Service. Here's how it works. (This information came from one of the agricultural workers from Peru who is in this country observing our farming methods.)

To encourage more home gardens in Peru, the Service distributes packets of seed for family sized gardens. What's a family sized garden in Peru? Well...it's about a half acre. You see, the average family there also has five people in it. And figuring that a tenth of an acre in a garden for each person is a goal to shoot at, the Service includes enough seed in each packet to plant half an acre.

There are twelve different kinds of seed in the packet. And while their names for the vegetables aren't the same ones we use, we'd recognize the vegetables soon enough. Tomatoes...peas...cauliflower...radishes...cabbage...lettuce...celery...onions...squash...pumpkin...eggplant and artichoke.

Along with distributing seed to plant the garden, information on how to do it and the best ways to take care of the plants is given out by a Peruvian government agricultural agency and the InterAmerican Cooperative Food Production Service.

Their garden program has been running only a year and a half now, but if you were there, you could already see the effects of it. You'd see little half acre

2-19-45

plots...about 28 thousand of them in fact...dotted along the countryside where there were no gardens before. And if you could talk to some of the Peruvians, you'd find many an enthusiastic new gardener among them.

Like our garden program, the Peruvian one isn't strictly a wartime affair. The people there want to increase the amounts of fresh fruits and vegetables they get. Their object is better eating. And while we're most interested now in producing food to make sure we have plenty for victory, we also want to get the best and most wholesome food we can...both now and after the war.

2-19-45

